



## MDA News Digest June 2013



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### A Message from Secretary Buddy Hance

Greetings,

Welcome to summer! The Ice Cream Trail is open. Farmers Markets are open. The opportunities to buy local products and support local farms are plentiful. If you are looking for markets and products near you, be sure to check out the [Maryland's Best](#) database to find what you're looking for.



Secretary Hance

I encourage all of you to take the [Buy Local Challenge](#) on July 20-28 and incorporate at least one locally produced or locally raised product in your family meals every day for a week. Buying local supports farmers, helps protect open space and, because food spends less time in transit, it is fresher, tastier and more nutritious. You can begin practicing now by buying local. Later in July, Governor O'Malley will host the 6th Annual Buy Local Cookout in which local chefs will prepare dishes they've made with local products. We will be publishing our sixth Buy Local Cookbook later in July. Check our website periodically for updates and photos.

## Headlines from MDA

*Below are some of the news releases MDA recently distributed.*

### [June is National Dairy Month](#)

National Dairy Month celebrates the value of milk and dairy products as part of a well-balanced diet for every American, as well as the importance of milk production to the agricultural industry. There are 496 dairy farms in Maryland that accounted for nearly \$188 million in sales in 2012. [Read more.](#)



### Other News:

- [MDA's Professional Lawn Care Manual is Now Available Online](#): (June 25) – The *Maryland Professional Lawn Care Manual* is now available on the Maryland Department of Agriculture website. [For more info.](#)
- [Agriculture Secretary Reminds Farmers to Know and Follow Crop Insurance Requirements for Handling Poor Quality Grain](#) (June 20, 2013) – Because of wet, humid conditions at the start of small grain harvesting, farmers may experience damage to wheat and barley crops. Maryland Agriculture Secretary Buddy Hance is reminding farmers who have poor

quality grain that they must report crop damage to their insurance company before they harvest or destroy it. [Read more.](#)

- [MDA Cover Crop Program Sign-Up Runs June 24 to July 15:](#) (May 30) – Open enrollment for the 2013-2014 Cover Crop Program will run June 24 through July 15 at soil conservation district offices statewide. This year, Governor Martin O'Malley has allocated approximately \$20 million for the popular conservation program which provides grants to farmers who agree to plant cover crops on their fields in the fall to conserve nutrients, reduce soil erosion, and protect water quality in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. [Read more.](#)
- [MDA Conservation Grants Now Available for Pasture Management Intensive Grazing Systems:](#) (June 11) – Beginning July 1, conservation grants will be available to farmers who want to establish pasture for a management intensive grazing system for their livestock. [Read more.](#)
- [State Agriculture Department Releases Pesticide Use Survey:](#) (May 28) – MDA, which is responsible for enforcing the Maryland Pesticide Applicator's Law, has released the results of a statewide pesticide use survey – the first such report since 2004. The report covers usage in 2011 but was conducted in 2012 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). [Read more.](#)
- [MDA Marketing Connects Companies with Consumers:](#) (June 13) – MDA's efforts to connect Maryland food businesses with buyers has had a recent international success for a small Maryland-based processor. [Read more.](#)
- [Agriculture Secretary Announces Members of Agricultural Certainty Oversight Committee:](#) (June 20) – Agriculture Secretary Buddy Hance has announced member of the Agricultural Certainty Oversight Committee – the group that will develop the regulations necessary to implement the program and then continue to evaluate the program and make recommendations for moving forward. [Read more.](#)

- [Harford County Teens Take Top](#) *Harford Christian School Envirothon Team: (From Left) Danielle Fiedler, Maddie Feustel, Hunter Howell, Gracie Shannahan, advisor, Ada Stambaugh and Danielle Reifer*

[Honors at Maryland Envirothon; Carroll, Montgomery take Second, Third:](#) (June 20) – A five-member team of high school students from Harford County is the winner of the 23rd annual Maryland Envirothon—an outdoor natural resources competition that challenges students to identify and categorize living resources, perform soil surveys and solve other complex natural resource issues. More than 100 challengers from 17 counties across Maryland took part in this year’s competition. [Read more.](#)



- [Maryland Horse Industry Board to Recognize Equine Champions from Anne Arundel, Cecil Counties:](#) (June 22) – The Maryland Horse Industry Board (MHIB) presented its June Touch of Class Award to Linda Zang, an internationally renowned dressage rider and judge from Anne Arundel County, and Qredit, a 5-year-old Oldenburg stallion owned by Hilltop Farm in Cecil County. [Read more.](#)
- [Pesticide Reporting and Information Work Group Members Announced:](#) (June 25) - The members of the Maryland Pesticide Reporting and Information Work Group, which was created during the 2013 legislative session and will be staffed by the Maryland Department of Agriculture, have been announced. [Read more.](#)
- [Maryland Agricultural Commission Installs New Chairman, Vice Chairman:](#) (June 17) -Eastern Shore Dairy Farmer Scott Youse was installed as Chairman of the Maryland Agricultural Commission while Charlie Carpenter, director of hatcheries and primary breeders for Perdue Farms, was elected Vice Chair during a meeting in Annapolis. [Read more.](#)
- [Maryland Agricultural Commission Seeks Nominations for Vacancies:](#) (May 28) - The Maryland Agricultural Commission – an advisory body to the Secretary of Agriculture which represents all major commodities in Maryland – is seeking nominations to fill nine positions.[Read more.](#)
- [Internationally Known Designer of Horse Parks Speaks at Maryland Horse Industry Board Speaker Series:](#) (June 19) - Internationally known equestrian facility designer Todd Gralla, the Director of Equestrian Services and Principal at Populous in Oklahoma City, gave a talk entitled, “Designing Horse Parks around the World.”

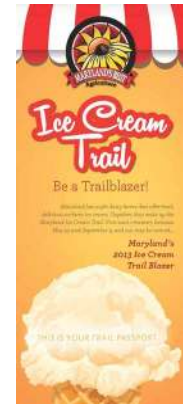
[Read all press releases.](#)

## On the MDA Blog

*Here are some recent posts from the MDA Blog*

- [MDA & MAEF Partner at DNR Field Day to Teach Students about Seeds](#) (June 14)
- [Marketing Specialists Brief Agricultural Commission on Farm-to-School and Maryland's Best programs](#) (June 13).
- [MDA Prepares to Help Pets during Disaster](#) (June 4)
- [MDA Serves as Staff to National Egg Quality School](#) (May 28)
- [The 2013 Maryland's Best Ice Cream Trail is Open!](#) (May 22)

[Read the MDA Blog](#)



## Facebook: What are we Talking About?

*We update our [Facebook](#) page several times a week. Some recent posts are shown below.*

- Know what Giant Hogweed looks like.
- State Veterinarian Guy Hohenhaus & Assistant State Vet Michael Radebaugh participated in a Dairy Industry Food Safety Crisis Drill
- What is Maryland's official state beverage?
- What is the most popular dairy breed in Maryland?
- How many cheese producers are there in Maryland?
- USDA & EPA launches the U.S. Food Waste Challenge

Like us on [Facebook](#)! (Follow us on Twitter [@MdAgDept](#))

## Follow Us on Social Media

**On Twitter:** *MDA has several twitter feeds you can follow for quick updates. Follow us at:*

- [@MdAgDept](#) - the official twitter account of the Maryland Department of Agriculture
- [@MdsBest](#) - the twitter feed for MDA's Marketing Office and the Maryland's Best Program



- [@MdEquines](#) - the twitter feed for MDA's Maryland Horse Industry Board
- [@MdFarm2School](#) - the twitter feed for MDA's Farm to School Program

**On Facebook:** MDA has several Facebook pages we invite you to "like."

- [MDA's Official Facebook page](#) ([www.facebook.com/MdAgDept](http://www.facebook.com/MdAgDept))
- [Maryland's Best Facebook page](#)
- [Maryland Horse Industry Board Facebook page](#)
- [Maryland Farm to School Facebook page](#)
- [Maryland Young Farmers Advisory Board Facebook page](#)

See our [Flickr](#) album: MDA uploads photos we take at various agricultural events for your viewing pleasure.

We are open 24/7 at:

[www.mda.maryland.gov](http://www.mda.maryland.gov)

#### Upcoming Events & Deadlines:

- [Nutrient Management Training and Certification for Nursery Operations](#), July 10 in central Maryland.
- [MDA's Farmers Market Directory](#). Find a market near you and the days and hours its open.

#### **We invite your feedback**

Thank you for reading our newsletter. We are always looking for ways to improve how we serve our constituents. Please send your comments, suggestions and ideas to [mda.news@maryland.gov](mailto:mda.news@maryland.gov) or call 410-841-5881. Or contact:

- Julie Oberg, Communications Director, 410-841-5888, [julie.oberg@maryland.gov](mailto:julie.oberg@maryland.gov)
- Vanessa Orlando, Public Information Officer, 410-841-889, [vanessa.orlando@maryland.gov](mailto:vanessa.orlando@maryland.gov)

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